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4-14-04

Patricia L. Mesuch

4/14/04  
Date of Signature



# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Palmer et al. )  
Serial No.: 10/811,639 ) Art Unit: N/A  
Filed: March 29, 2004 ) Examiner: N/A  
Title: TOOLS AND METHODS FOR )  
FIELD-INSTALLABLE FUSION SPLICED )  
FIBER OPTIC CONNECTOR KITS )

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document(s) listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the filing date of the application, but, to the best of Applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

Copies of the listed document(s) are attached.

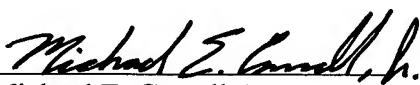
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document(s) and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed document(s) are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the document(s) as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document(s).

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document(s), should one or more of the document(s) be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: April 14, 2004

<b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce</b> <b>Patent and Trademark Office</b> <b>LIST OF RELATED DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)				<b>Attorney Docket Number:</b> HE0225		<b>Serial Number:</b> 10/811,639	
				<b>Applicant:</b> Palmer et al.			
				<b>Filing Date:</b> 3/29/04		<b>Group:</b> N/A	
<b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	AA	4,257,546	3/24/81	Benasutti	225	96.5	8/8/79
	AB	4,602,845	7/29/86	Anderton	350	96.20	2/19/85
	AC	4,619,387	10/28/86	Shank et al.	225	96.5	9/16/85
	AD	4,712,861	12/15/87	Lukas et al.	350	96.21	2/7/85
	AE	4,787,697	11/29/88	Alrutz et al.	350	96.20	11/20/87
	AF	4,877,303	10/31/89	Caldwell et al.	350	96.21	9/22/88
	AG	5,018,818	5/28/91	Barlow et al.	350	96.2	6/11/90
	AH	5,040,867	8/20/91	deJong et al.	385	60	3/21/90
	AI	5,077,880	1/7/92	Dean et al.	29	281.5	12/21/90
	AJ	5,151,961	9/29/92	Hvezda et al.	385	60	2/20/92
	AK	5,160,569	11/3/92	Ott et al.	156	439	8/8/91
	AL	5,222,169	6/22/93	Chang et al.	385	87	2/18/92
	AM	5,261,020	11/9/93	deJong et al.	385	76	11/5/92
	AN	5,363,459	11/8/94	Hultermans	385	60	1/15/93
	AO	5,666,456	9/9/97	Merriken	385	134	6/5/96
	AP	5,748,819	5/5/98	Szentesi et al.	385	60	4/5/95
	AQ	6,019,521	2/1/00	Manning et al.	385	77	2/9/98
	AR	6,068,410	5/30/00	Giebel et al.	385	72	12/22/97
	AS	6,173,097	1/9/01	Throckmorton et al.	385	59	7/1/98
	AT	6,238,104	5/29/01	Yamakawa et al.	385	87	2/10/99
	AU	6,379,054	4/30/02	Throckmorton et al.	385	66	12/13/00
	AV	6,439,780	8/27/02	Mudd et al.	385	83	8/31/00
	AW	6,623,172	9/23/03	deJong et al.	385	59	5/12/99
	AX	6,715,933	4/6/04	Zimmer et al.	385	86	7/18/00
<b>EXAMINER</b>						<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>	

\*EXAMINER Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.